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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"No, we cannot."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABAPATHI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the heavy bus traffic which runs in important cities, may I know if the hon. Member will be pleased to set apart certain percentage of the police force to be exclusively in charge of traffic control?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Is it not a fact that a Traffic department is constituted so far as the Madras City Police is concerned, and that they are in charge of buses and other traffic control?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"Yes, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member if it is not a fact that there is a section of the Police even in the mufassal who are deputed to this business?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
"Notice."

Electricity

Applications for grant of licences for electric supply to towns.

*390 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many applications for the grant of licences for the supply of electrical energy to towns were received from private firms—

(i) prior to 1st January 1929;
(ii) between 1st January 1929 and 1st July 1929.

(b) what the names of the applicants are and the towns for which such applications were received;

(c) whether the Electrical Inspector to Government had any correspondence with any of these private firms and in particular with Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. of Calcutta, inviting them to put in such applications;

(d) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited, went in for working out the Salem Scheme and were asked by the Electrical Inspector to refrain from doing so on the ground that he was in communication with Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. of Calcutta for that town scheme and advised them to take up Vizagapatam with his promise of support;

(e) why, and since when have the Government deviated from their policy as laid down in G.O. Mis. No. 45, L. & M., dated 5th January 1926, G.O. Mis. No. 1342 W., dated 25th September 1926, G.O. No. 1619 W., dated 30th June 1928, and have of their own accord invited private firms to come forward; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the Electrical Inspector was not able to force his nominees as contractors on local bodies that took up electric schemes?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Applications from the following private firms for electric licences have been received :—

(i) Received prior to 1st January 1929—

Name of the firm.	Area of supply.
(1) Messrs. The Tinnevelly-Palamcottah Electric Supply Company, Limited, Trichinopoly.	Tinnevelly, Palamcottah and Tuticorin.
(2) Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Do.
(3) Messrs. Killick Nixon & Co., Ltd., Bombay.	Do.

(ii) Received between 1st January 1929 and 1st July 1929—

Name of the firm.	Area of supply.
(1) Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Mangalore and Salem.
(2) Messrs. Chari & Chari, Limited, Madras.	Guntur and Salem.
(3) Messrs. Croft Forbes & Chard, Limited, Madras.	Kumbakonam.
(4) Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited, Calcutta.	Vizagapatam, Vizianagram and Bimlipatam taluks; Guntur, Tenali and Ellore taluks and a portion of Bapatla taluk.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) The Government have not invited any private firm to apply for licences.

(*f*) The procedure for the selection by local bodies of contractors for the execution of electrical schemes is laid down in paragraph 334-A of the Municipal Account Code. The Electrical Inspector has no power to force his nominees or contractors on local bodies.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, with reference to clause (*f*) whether the local bodies can get a loan from the Government unless they accept the tender suggested by the Electrical Inspector to Government under the latest Government Order?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It is as suggested by the hon. Member, Sir."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—"May I know if the Government will be pleased to call for the information asked for in clauses (*c*) and (*d*), and ascertain whether the allegations made in those clauses are true or not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I shall consider the suggestion, Sir."

Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"With regard to answer to paragraph (*f*), may I ask, Sir, whether the Electrical Inspector has at any time forced his nominees on any local body?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No, Sir."

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Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"May I know, Sir, whether in the case of Cocanada, the Electrical Inspector's advice to give the contract to an English firm was rejected by the Municipal Council, and whether they went in for a German firm on the ground that the latter's was the cheapest tender?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—"May I know, Sir, having regard to answers to clauses (c) and (d), how the hon. the Law Member was justified in answering the supplementary question of Mr. James that the Electrical Inspector did not force his nominees or contractors upon any particular local body?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The suggestions involved in clauses (c) and (d) are very different from those involved in clause (f)."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—"May I request the hon. the Law Member to please peruse the questions and answers once more and say whether the information asked for in clauses (c) and (d) is not necessary in answering clause (f) of the question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No, Sir."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—"With reference to the answer to clause (e), may I know if the Electrical Inspector is in the habit of inviting private firms to apply for licences?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"May I know whether in the case of Kurnool also an Indian firm was selected by the municipality in spite of the Electrical Inspector's advice?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I do not know, Sir. I want notice."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—"May I know whether owing to these things the recent Government Order has been issued to the effect that no loan will be given to the local bodies unless the local bodies accept the tender suggested by the Electrical Inspector?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No, Sir."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar :—"May I know, when the nominee of the Electrical Inspector is not accepted by any local body, whether there is no undue influence on the part of the Electrical Inspector?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"In fact the Electrical Inspector has no power to unduly influence or interfere under the rules."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know whether the Electrical Inspector has not the power to reject the material that is supplied by the contractor?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Electrical Inspector is not advising the rejection of material?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—"He is not. He has no power."

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Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"May I know whether according to the latest Government Order, every deviation from the original estimate is required to be sanctioned by the Electrical Inspector ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Not 'sanctioned'. It is to be approved by him. Sanction has to be accorded by the Government."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—"If work is proceeded with on such estimate without his approval, would not the cost be surcharged on the local bodies ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No. The municipal council or the local body concerned has the power of making representations again to the Government."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"May I know whether the hon. the Law Member is prepared to examine the question as to whether the Electrical Inspector is not rejecting the electrical material supplied by the contractors on very flimsy grounds ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I shall make enquiries, Sir."

Qualifications and duties of the Junior Electrical Inspector.

* 391 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a qualified Assistant Electrical Inspector has now been appointed by the Government ; if so, what his duties are ;

(*b*) if so, whether it is his intention to divide the districts between the Electrical Inspector and the Assistant Electrical Inspector and place both these people under the supervision of the Chief Engineer or the Hydro-Electric Expert ?

A.—(*a*) A Junior Electrical Inspector has been appointed to assist the Electrical Inspector generally in inspection and office work.

(*b*) No.

Constitution of Districts and Divisions

Cancellation of the bifurcation of Kistna district.

* 392 Q.—Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collectors of Kistna and West Godavari have made any proposals to Government to cancel the bifurcation of Kistna district into Kistna and West Godavari districts ;

(*b*) whether any correspondence is going on between the Government, the Revenue Board and the Collectors about the cancellation of the said bifurcation ; and

(*c*) whether the construction of any of the buildings at Ellore has been ordered to be stopped pending the settlement of the question of the re-union of Kistna and West Godavari ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 212 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th August 1929.

(*c*) No.